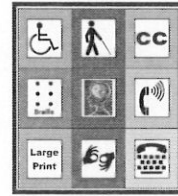




Office on the Disabled  
City of Saint Louis  
Advisory Council Meeting  
Room 305, City Hall  
January 7, 2013



### Minutes

Gina Hilberry called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Members present included Kerri Morgan, Gina Hilberry, Mike Keller, Jane Thomas, Wendy Sullivan, Bill Sheldon and Linda Baker. David Newburger was also present. Absent was Willie Kimbrough, Jr.

Minutes from the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting were adopted.

The next meeting for the advisory council is scheduled on February 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 A.M. in Room 305.

#### New Information:

Ms. Hilberry was asked by Webster University how to ensure that websites are accessible. The group consensus is that Missouri Association Technology does this service for free.

Mr. Newburger—

It is expected that we will publish information in April on Emergency Operation Plans from Emergency Management agencies. We will send our findings to them and give them time to respond before publication of results.

Ms. Baker—

She will be receiving a Caption First phone that someone tapes in the middle. TTY's are becoming less popular so she will report back to the group on how successful this is.

#### Planning the transition plan continued:

Mr. Newburger went to the Director of Public Safety in St. Louis, Mr. Roth, to let him know about our plans and in the course of this discussion we talked about the transition plan for public safety. Mr. Roth feels that now is the time for a transition plan in the police department. Mr. Newburger emailed his ADA Coordinator group asking for advice. Most information found about best practices when dealing with police and disabled are centered around those who are deaf. Austin spent a power point they are developing to train the police officers. It seems obvious that there is a need for awareness training but the other question is where are the holes in their policies? Mr. Roth also said that

this may be a good time to address the entire Department of Public Safety regarding disabilities. Mr. Roth is very enthusiastic about this and is going to speak to Chief Dodson, Chief Jenkerson and Mayor Slay. Mr. Newburger is going to email Mr. Roth and ask how best to move forward.

Ms. Sullivan—

Is it possible to see what exists right now, not only in the police policies but also in their training?

Mr. Newburger—

It is possible to look at standards and policies. And we can also look to see what they are doing correctly. We need instances of problems that the disability community has experienced. Wheelchairs being left behind are one example but I need others. Please connect with others you may know with examples and share with the council by email.

Ms. Hilberry—

A resource to get information is to speak to Peter and Paul Homeless Services. They often work with people with disabilities.

Ms. Sullivan will send Mr. Newburger information on people with developmental disabilities and their encounters with the police.

Ms. Hilberry—

One reoccurring story is a student with a disability being left behind during emergency drills but what happens when it's not a drill and the child is left behind like always.

Ms. Hilberry—

What happens during emergencies in buildings owned and leased by the City?

Mr. Newburger—

We have installed two evacuation chairs in city hall and 2 more evacuation chairs within the Truman Building.

Ms. Hilberry—

What happens to service animals if someone is put in an ambulance? Do the police have a procedure in place if someone with an animal is put in an ambulance or arrested? Same question goes for wheelchairs left behind during an emergency? The police could adopt a policy like Mr. Newburger mentioned that the last officer on scene has to make provisions for the animal or equipment left behind.

Ms. Sullivan—

How often does this happen? That's an important question that has to be addressed before we can go forward with recommendations.

Mr. Newburger—

Please send any thoughts, suggestions, instances of problems that people face to our office.

Ms. Morgan—

Another issue that comes to mind is being pulled over and asked to get out of the vehicle. Troopers have taken this badly when you tell them you can't easily get out or that your need to reach in the back to get ID from your scooter or wheelchair.

Mr. Newburger—

At the last meeting we discussed that we have an open spot on the advisory council and we need to work toward getting that spot filled for the council. Are there any recommendations from the council?

Ms. Baker—

Jackie Luetsch from NAMI may be a good start.

Mr. Newburger—

I was thinking possibly someone with high functioning autism may be a good fit for the council. Ms. Sullivan can look into this.


### **New Business**

March 13<sup>th</sup> is an important date for Ms. Hilberry's walking tour event for engineers. She is still looking for volunteers. Ideally, between 4 and 8 people are needed. Ms. Thomas is a definite volunteer. Ms. Hilberry will send out an email.

Ms. Hilberry informs the group that on 3/13/13 MODOT is going to give a full one day ADA workshop as part of the Transportation Engineers Association of Missouri annual conference. It does count for engineer credits. The non motorized transportation engineer is hoping to send out groups of walking tours that includes people with disabilities with the engineers in the field to intersections. Ms. Hilberry is looking for both people with mobility disabilities and visual disabilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,



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Kerri Morgan, Secretary